

Message

From: Goodin, John [Goodin.John@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/13/2019 10:15:49 AM
To: Eisenberg, Mindy [Eisenberg.Mindy@epa.gov]; Frazer, Brian [Frazer.Brian@epa.gov]; Connors, Sandra [Connors.Sandra@epa.gov]; McDavit, Michael W. [Mcdavit.Michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: AZ 404g paper
Attachments: 20190405 Permit Process Review Memo.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Folks— apropos of our biweekly chat on R9 grant issue yesterday, see second and third paragraphs below. We can chat further Monday.

Thanks for all your work on these tough issues!
John

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Torres, Tomas" <Torres.Tomas@epa.gov>
Date: April 12, 2019 at 6:09:31 PM EDT
To: "Goodin, John" <Goodin.John@epa.gov>
Subject: AZ 404g paper

Hi John,

Just sharing the latest Permit Process paper that the AZ 404g assumption Executive WG discussed yesterday for your future reference. At yesterday's meeting, Trevor Baggione (ADEQ Water Director) announced that ADEQ would be meeting with EPA HQ (OGC/OW) on Monday to discuss a potential approach for 404 assumption and ESA (the meeting was news to me). We subsequently learned that OGC invited our Regional Counsel staff to participate on Monday's call - I have asked my staff to join them. I'd appreciate your support in giving us a heads up on future such discussions (especially where career staff are included).

Also, when you have a minute, I was hoping to connect with you concerning a Wetlands Program issue. We are getting some push-back from your staff on our recent approval of Coral Protection Plans for HI and our Territories as qualifying as Wetland Program Plans. We were a bit surprised, as we coordinated with your staff prior to approving them. A related concern is that we're hearing that coral work cannot be funded under the current Wetland Program Development Grant RFA, even though the RFA notes that "(f)or the purposes of this grant program, the term wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, springs, creeks, **coral reefs**, and other similar features." We have funded coral projects with Wetland Development Grants in the past (in addition to traditional wetlands).

While the RFA is still open, we anticipate receiving project proposals for coral protection activities from Hawaii and the Territories - disallowing eligibility for coral protection will severely impact our on-going capacity building in Hawaii and the territories, which is one of our Regional Administrator's priorities and where the highest needs are in R9. I seek your help further understanding OW's new/revised approach.

Thanks in advance!

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